

of materials at his disposal those best calculated to represent the actual condition of medico-legal knowledge, and has arranged these in a manner calculated to present the requisite information with that clearness and precision so essential in an elementary treatise.

In the edition before us, the work has undergone throughout a careful revision, while many and important additions have been made to it. It may, in consequence, be considered a most faithful exhibition of legal medicine as actually received by our own profession, and confirmed by the latest decisions of the criminal courts.

From the comprehensiveness of the author's text, the labours of the American editor "have been principally confined to a careful revision of the text, the incorporation of the addenda, and the introduction of occasional brief notes of recent cases and decisions, and references to others, as well as to some of the papers and works of interest which have been presented since the date of the author's preface."

The additions and references of the editor are not, however, without value; they render the treatise a more complete exponent of the actual condition of medical jurisprudence.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXIX.—*Physician's Tabulated Diary, designed to facilitate the Study of Disease at the Bedside.* By a Physician of Virginia. Richmond, Va. J. W. Randolph, 1856.

THE keeping of a very full record of the cases that fall under his care should never be neglected by any physician, but more especially by those who have but recently entered upon the duties and responsibilities of the profession. It is only by pursuing this course that the medical man can acquire readily and fully that clinical skill in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases so essential to his accomplishment as a safe and successful practitioner.

Few, unfortunately, are sufficiently impressed with the importance of recording their cases to be willing to devote to it the necessary time and labour; while even those who do record their observations, seldom do so at the time they are actually made, but at a subsequent period, from memory alone, when important facts may have been forgotten, and those remembered, imperfectly described. Anything, consequently, that may have a tendency to induce physicians to keep a true clinical record of their cases receives our cordial approbation. As a means, therefore, to this end, we feel constrained to recommend the diary before us. It presents for each day eighteen blank spaces. The first being for the date of visit, and the name, age, sex, occupation, etc. of the patient; the second, for the hour of visit, and locality; the third, for the date of attack; the fourth, for the seat of pain; the fifth, for the decubitus and aspect of patient; the sixth, seventh, and eighth, respectively, for state of tongue, skin, brain, and nervous system; the ninth, for gastro-intestinal symptoms; the tenth and eleventh, for the signs and symptoms derived from the respiratory system; the twelfth and thirteenth, for the signs and symptoms derived from the circulatory system; the fourteenth, for the genito-urinary symptoms; the fifteenth, for the name of the disease; the sixteenth, for the state of sleep; the seventeenth, reference to authorities, etc.; and the eighteenth, for treatment.

An appendix is added, for certain records "which are required but once for each patient, or which could not be entered into the diary;" such as thermometrical and barometrical observations, chemical and microscopic observations, previous history of patient, and post-mortem observations.

That a more simple and systematic diary than that of the Virginia Physician could not very easily be prepared we shall not assert; yet we are convinced that even were the one before us used by the generality of practitioners in the different sections of our country, "materials would be accumulated for analysis

and generalization," which could not fail "in time, under the auspices of medical associations," or in the hands of some industrious member of the profession, "to greatly elucidate questions of medical topography, etiology, pathology, and therapeutics."

D. F. C.

ART. XXX.—*The Causes and Curative Treatment of Sterility, with a Preliminary Statement of the Physiology of Generation. With colored Lithographs and numerous Wood-cut Illustrations.* By AUGUSTUS K. GARDNER, A. M., M. D., etc. etc. 8vo., pp. 170. New York: Dewitt & Davenport, 1856.

THAT Dr. Gardner has presented a very fair exposition of the present state of our knowledge in relation to the physiology of generation, and the causes and treatment of sterility, we very freely admit. Whether, however, the profession was in want of a work of the character of that before us, is a question that will admit of some doubt. We find in it nothing that is original, nothing with which every well-informed physician is not perfectly familiar.

We have a right to presume that the work was intended solely for the professional eye, and yet we are at a loss to conceive what could have induced the author to suppose that the slightest degree of instruction would be communicated to either medical student or practitioner by the coloured lithograph which fronts the title-page, or by one or more of those which follow.

From the manner in which the work is got up, and a certain tone which pervades it, we very much fear that it will attract the attention and be eagerly sought after by a class of readers upon whom it cannot fail to exert a baneful influence. However sound the physiological views it sets forth, however true the facts and statements it details, however sound the curative directions it presents, to the popular reader these will convey but little information from which he can derive any direct practical advantage. To the physician, all that the work contains, whether now or old, was already attainable from sources not easy of access to those who would seek them only to gratify a prurient imagination, and into which the innocent and unconscious would scarcely penetrate.

There is much within the scope of medical science which, while kept within its legitimate limits, is neither offensive to good taste, to delicacy, or to morals, but which, when obtruded before the public eye, with every allurement to attract the observation of the curious and susceptible, may be productive of much and serious evil.

D. F. C.

ART. XXXI.—*New Elements of Operative Surgery.* By ALF. A. L. M. VELPEAU, Professor of Surgical Clinique, etc. etc. Carefully revised, entirely remodelled, and augmented with "A Treatise on Minor Surgery." Illustrated by over 200 engravings, incorporated with the text; accompanied with an Atlas, in quarto, of 22 Plates, representing the principal operative processes, surgical instruments, etc. Translated, with additions, by P. S. TOWNSEND, M. D., etc., under the supervision of, and with notes and observations by, VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., etc. Fourth edition, with additions, by GEORGE C. BLACKMAN, M. D., Professor in the Medical College of Ohio, Surgeon to the Commercial Hospital, etc. In 3 vols. 8vo. pp. 970, 911, and 992 respectively. Samuel S. & W. Wood: New York, 1856.

As a matter of course, there is but little to say about a new edition of the American translation of Volpeau's great work on Operative Surgery, except in regard to the additions of the new editor. The previous editions have been long known and appreciated by the profession; and the present one will be